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Agenda item 52 (a)

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Congo, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

International Year of Planet Earth, 2008

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant provisions on science and technology for sustainable development and disaster reduction as recognized in Agenda 21,[1] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[3]

Noting that the wealth of scientific information available on planet Earth remains largely untapped and hardly known to the public or to policymakers and decision makers,

Convinced that education in Earth sciences provides men and women with the tools for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources on the planet and for building the scientific infrastructure essential for sustainable development,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1), chap. I, resolution 2.

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Welcoming the initiative of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for an International Year of Planet Earth[4] with a view to highlighting the importance of Earth science to societies,

Taking into account the crucial role the Year could play, inter alia, in raising public awareness of the importance of the Earth's processes and resources, disaster prevention, reduction and mitigation and developing capacity for the sustainable management of resources, and its important contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Noting that the activities of the International Year of Planet Earth will be funded from voluntary contributions from industry and major foundations mobilized by a consortium of international organizations, led by the International Union of Geological Sciences,

1. *Decides* to declare 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the focal point for the year, to organize activities to be undertaken during the year, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Union of Geological Sciences and other Earth science societies and groups throughout the world;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences for societies and for building sustainable communities, notably in developing countries, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a progress report on the preparations for the International Year of Planet Earth.

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[4] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at its One Hundred and Seventy-first Session, Paris, 12-28 April 2005* (171 EX/Decisions), decision 57.